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# THE HOME WORKSHOP

## CUSHION FOR OTTOMAN.

THE embroidered part of the cushion consists of three Cuba galloons, a woollen embroidery material shot with gold thread at the edges, and also known under the name of Lima brocade. In the center galloon the satin stitch parts are worked with blue, olive, bronze, and copper-colored wool in various shades, and the cross-stitch outlines with dark reddish brown wool. The distribution of the colors of the smaller stripes is shown on page 69. The three stripes are then joined with bronze colored wool, bordered with plush, and the cushion made up in the usual way, with a lining of copper-colored satin.

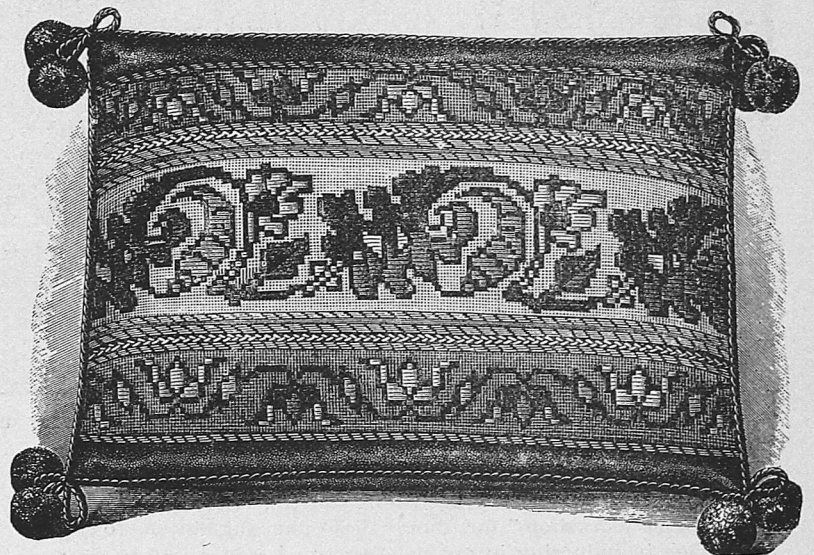
**L EILA LITTELL.** "Having more than once derived information from the "Home Workshop" your valuable magazine in reference to crochet work in wools, I make bold to trouble you on my own behalf. I am anxious to know whether any new stitches or new ideas have been evolved for the crochét in wools. I wish to "take time by the forelock" in making of a slumber robe for a Christmas present for an invalid aunt; and this being no insignificant undertaking, I propose to begin work as soon as I am satisfactorily advised in the directions alluded to. My aunt is possessed of grave but very fine tastes, and she would hardly feel complimented in a souvenir that was not more or less elegant and unique, however much the question of affection might have part in it. She is a woman of wealth, and surrounded by luxuries, and is therefore fastidious; so that I must needs be careful in my holiday offering. Will you, then, if you please, mention colors that you think handsome, and will you suggest the most suitable wool for the stitch or the stitches you may mention."

The situation referred to in your wish to offer a satisfactory Christmas souvenir to your aunt, will be thoroughly understood by any one who has undertaken to minister to the tastes and needs of a person surrounded not only by all the necessities but by the most of the luxuries of life. But holding the opinion that a present is to be appreciated rather as an evidence of the affection and good will of the giver, than for its intrinsic value, we fail to see why the wealthy may not be made happy by what is simple as well as by what is costly and elaborate. In regard to the slumber-robe for your fortunate aunt, we have seen several, recently, rich and elegant enough to please the most highly-favored and exacting. A robe of exceeding richness is of crochet-work in French double zephyr wool, in three stripes, each about sixteen inches in width. The middle stripe done in the well known Afghan stitch, is in black, powdered over with *fleurs de lis* in Russian embroidery, or the tapestry, or cross stitch, done in olive brown, shading out from a very dark, to a very pale tone of the color, the high light thrown in with silk filoselle. The side stripes are in olive brown, done in the star stitch, shading from the darkest to the palest tone of color, the shading running from the sides to the centre, the stripes being joined by the palest shade of the color, in the double crochet stitch, as this term is confounded by some with the long crochet stitch, we will say; the joining stitch is that usually seen. The finish of the robe is a fringe about nine inches deep, following in color the shading in the stripes, and knotted in the usual style. A slumber robe of this description would be exceedingly handsome in old-rose, crushed strawberry, Gobelin blue, seagreen, or golden brown, the centre stripe done in the darkest shade of the respective color, and the side stripes shading up from the darkest to the palest shade. In all cases however, the high light in the embroidery done on the centre stripe should be in silk filoselle, to secure the glistening effect which is desirable. For a slumber robe so ought we most certainly

commend the French zephyr wool, as coming in better colors, not only, but as being a softer and richer textile and several strands heavier than the German wools. The French single zephyr wool is a textile almost equal in heaviness to the German double zephyr wool, and goes further than the latter in working, while the French double zephyr is a much heavier textile than either the Berlin or the American wools, and the work done with it is correspondingly handsomer.

A very charming slumber robe, wrought of an American textile known as the "Bernhardtus" wool (in compliment to Sara Bernhardt) shows fine stripes, twelve inches in width, done in golden brown, shading from a very dark to a pale tone.

The centre of the stripes, worked lengthwise, are in the Afghan stitch, in a band about six inches wide, and worked upon each side of the band are four shades of the color done in the long crochet stitch, beginning with the lightest shade, taken down on the front and not through the web, so that the effect is that of deep loosely twisted loops. Five tones of the color are seen in the long stitch, and two rows of each tone—the darkest tone appearing on the outside of the stripes. The stripes are then joined with the double crochet stitch, and each shade has its own fringe knotted in. Should you not like to follow the plans of either piece of work here mentioned, we may have other instructions to offer in our next issue.



CUSHION FOR BACK OF OTTOMAN.

**A YOUNG HOUSEWIFE.** "Since being settled to my supposed life's work in a home of my own, I chanced to come across THE DECORATOR AND FURNISHER, and feeling that it would prove to me a *vade mecum* in the fitting up and furnishing of our house, my husband at once subscribed for it. I need not tell you it has been to us invaluable, as furnishing to us the most important suggestions. More than once I have utilized answers to correspondents to my advantage, and now I wish to give others equal opportunity through my own inquiries. Let me know, if you please, how a catch-all may be devised by home ingenuity. I should like something that might be considered somewhat elegant, and which might be placed in the hall, or even in the parlor, if need be."

There has lately come to "The Home Workshop" a plan for a card-receiver which might be modified into several uses, and which, doubtless, would be suited to your wishes. Use for the frame, three cast-off broom handles, or sticks. Gild them, or paint them, if you like, or cover them with plush—stitching up the covers on a sewing machine, turning them, and running the

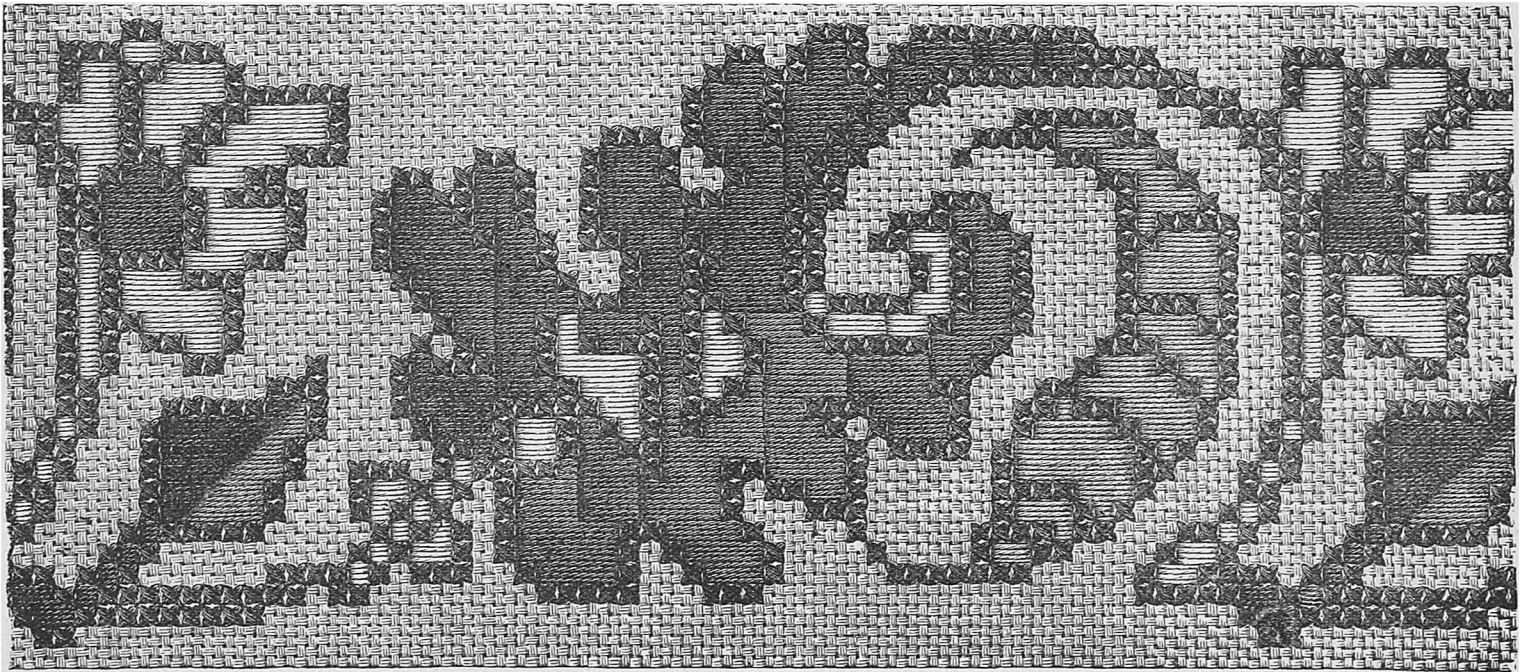


## THE DECORATOR AND FURNISHER.

stick in them. Then fasten the sticks together with long screws, in tripod fashion. If intended for the support for a card-receiver, make for the purpose a triangular bag of three triangularly-shaped pieces of the plush, lining the bag with silk or satin of some contrasting color, finish with a deep silk tassel at the point and a bullion cord around the top, and attach to the sticks with small tacks, and upon each stick fasten a tassel, or a bow of ribbon. A ribbon bow is also tied around the juncture of sticks, to conceal the heads of the screws. An elegant contrivance of the kind, used as a card-receiver, has the sticks covered with plush in dark turquoise blue, the blue plush bag lined with satin in old gold color, a cord of the gold color around the top of the bag, with trimming of blue tassels, and a bow around the sticks of wide blue satin ribbon. As intimated, the sticks may be painted or gilded; or, after being thoroughly cleaned and smoothed with fine sandpaper, they look well simply varnished; and for the plush bag, a work-basket may be substituted. One of the common round splint baskets, to be found at any grocers, answers well for the purpose. The basket can be nicely decorated, by applying a grounding of gold paint, and upon this many painted designs suggest themselves. The basket should be lined (colored silesia being very suitable, if surah silk should be deemed too expensive), and the basket secured to the sticks by tacks or screws, and there may be a finish of ribbon bows. A catch-all after the idea involved in the card-receiver, or work basket described, would be very satisfactory to "A Young Housekeeper."

satteen, upholsterer's satin, or some other handsome and stout material, and trim with a cord on the edge knotted at the corners and terminating in a couple of woollen pompons, or balls. Very tasteful covers for sofa pillars are made of India pongee, Russian crash, and even butcher's linen, enriched with the transparent Mexican embroidery known as the *punto tirato*, or Mexican drawn work. This is effected by drawing the threads from the material, and knotting and darning them. The work abounds in suggestiveness, but it would be impossible in the space allowable in our columns to give the details of patterns. There are hand-books for this admirable work, and one design opens the way for many variations. We could enumerate "the hour glass" design; "the cobweb," "the daisy," "the carriage wheel," "the diamond," "the herring bone," "the single and double marriage," with many lace-like designs. A recent piece of work in a mixed cobweb and daisy design, wrought with Barbour's flax sewing threads, is as rich as some of the antique laces. For all work done on the heavy linens, Barbour's flax threads are the best that can be used.

MIRIAM L. JOHNSTON. "Tell me, if you please, whether in your investigations, you have found that any use can be made of broken china. I have been distressed almost beyond measure in the breakage that has occurred to a lot of china bought in Europe, and packed for me by those who make a business of packing earthen ware. In going over the wreck,



DETAIL OF EMBROIDERY ON CENTRE STRIPE OF CUSHION.

ADELE. "I am the subject, for the time, of a craze for sofa-pillows, and I scarcely need tell you that I am indebted to 'The Home Workshop' for more than one suggestion to my advantage in indulging in my pet *fureur*. I would like to show you some of the luxurious cushions which I have fashioned through the medium of 'The Home Workshop,' and now I wish to know if you can again help me. I am anxious to make several pillows—one or two of which may go as wedding presents—and I shall be very grateful if you can furnish me with any hints in reference. You will bear in mind this is the first direct application that I have made for advice from you."

We shall be happy to advise our correspondents any number of times. Apology for troubling us, therefore, is not necessary. In regard to sofa pillars, we are pleased to call your attention to an illustration that we have on hand. The cover of the pillow in question, is done on Java canvas, while there are woollen canvases that may be of richer effect as a grounding material. The embroidery is done with zephyr wools and silk filoselle, that of the edge in an imported wool with gold threads. As you will observe the embroidery is in the Russian cross-stitch, and the long straight stitch, both which are easily and speedily wrought. For the work we would recommend the new turquoise blue and copper colors in several shades, or you can make a study of colors suited to the sofa upon which the pillow is to be used. Have the cover for the back of the cushion of artist's

however, I discover that, in some instances only the rim of plates and saucers are broken, leaving the bottoms entire, and as these are in beautiful designs it has occurred to me that I might in some wise utilize them. Do assist me with an idea, if possible. I can only attribute the disaster I have suffered to an untoward accident and I would save all I can from it."

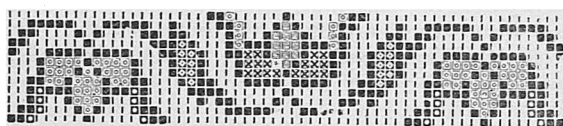
Why not have your pieces mounted in plush frames, and use them for wall decoration? Should you be having any furniture made, you could also have those pieces mounted in the panels. There could not be a handsomer setting in the head and foot boards of a bedstead, on the centre of bureau-drawers, or on the doors of a cabinet, than a piece of Dresden, or Saxony china; while the time may be coming when we shall see broken china employed in mosaic effects, for table tops, etc. It is altogether possible. They could be pressed into pitch, putty, or some available cement, after the manner of the Florentine mosaic work; and if done with taste and skill, the result would be pleasing. And just here, in reply to a friend who wishes to know how she may dispose of odds and ends of plates, saucers, and this and that in china and other knick-knacks, we would suggest a panel covered with dark red plush, set with brass hooks, upon which things various and innumerable can be hung. In connection we recall a panel of the kind, in the house of a tasteful lady in our city, fitted in between the folding-doors and the hall door, of the rear parlor, hung with all sorts of fancies,

and nothing in the house is more interesting to visitors than this panel with its incongruous furnishing of bric-a-brac, ivory carvings, odd little pictures, antique stilettoes, etc.

MRS. J. M. TURNER. "I have had an idea that I might very greatly improve and enrich the holland shades of our windows, by trimming them in some manner. Can you suggest a suitable trimming?"

You could very greatly improve upon the appearance of your holland shades by trimming them with *macramé* fringe. But for this fringe you must not use the so-called "macramé cotton cord," as it would be clumsy and course in effect. Instead use Barbour's flax *macramé* twine, which is to the cotton cords as gold thread is to cheap tinsel. Barbour's threads are in all the colors given to the linen for window shades. For designs for the *macramé* laces and fringes, get Barbour's hand-book for *macramé* lace.

QUERIST. In an issue of this year, of the DECORATOR AND FURNISHER, I noticed an article on screens, with numerous illustrations, both of single and of folding screens. One or two of these I have successfully copied, but being possessed of a sort of 'craze' for screens, and knowing that new designs for everything



BORDER OF CUSHION  
 • Brown. \* Dark Blue. • Light Blue. @ Bronze. C Olive. □ Copper

of the kind, are frequently coming out in New York, I have concluded to ask if you have seen anything of simple design, later than those illustrations. If so, will you give me some idea as to the making of the screen?"

The most unique screen to which our attention has been attracted lately is of three folds, a bar running across the width of the panels, about eight inches from the top bar of the frame the space between the two bars covered with a piece of tightly drawn white China silk, and this made a support for photograph frames designed for pictures of cabinet size. The photograph frames on the screen in question, are covered with printed China silk in grounding of *vieux rose* color—each panel holding two frames, and across the lower part of each panel runs a valances of plain China silk in delicate willow green. The screen described is peculiarly dainty in effect and nicely adapted for use in a dainty bed chamber. Colors may be used to suit the colors in the furnishing of the room.

## DECORATIVE NOVELTIES.

BY LAURA B. STARR.

When forks were first introduced they were called "split spoons."

The Bokhara tent frieze is a novelty just introduced into the country. They are used in Turkestan by the wandering nomads in the decoration of their tents. Some of the larger tents have the frieze running entirely around them; in some cases they measure 75 feet, they are about nine inches wide.

The faggot table decoration is new, where flowers are made to spring from large and small bundles of faggots, just as they might be gathered from the wood. These and the sheaves of corn, bright green, unripe corn, as well as the yellow ears ready for harvest, are very handsome.

Tree lichen moss, laid in designs on green moss is one of the new arrangements for decorating church window sills; sometimes the vivid yellow toadstools are used for letters or monograms.

A novelty in tea cloths is one half silk, half linen which is woven in beautiful damask designs. The cloth is reversible, on the one side the pattern is naturally in creamy linen, and on the other in amber silk; a deep fringe of silk and flax completes the design.

Blanchard's Voyageur de la Jeunesse, published in 1809, thus describes the dinner of the well-to-do Londoner. "At three o'clock everyone returned to the house, and dinner was served. A cloth touching the ground covers the table; there are no napkins. Before each person is placed a round handled fork with two steel prongs, and a knife whose broad round blade can

serve as a spoon in case of need; these are changed at each course. At dessert the cloth is removed, and each one is provided with a smaller knife and fork, a glass bowl in which to wash his hands, and an extremely small square napkin."

Dainty sachet bags of perfume, with a few flowers tied in the neck, may be laid about the dinner table. They should be small size and of brocade that corresponds in coloring with the real flowers in them, and about the table. They emit a soft indefinable perfume throughout the atmosphere and may be used as favors if desired.

A table decoration of ferns consists of three clusters, each cluster composed of three plants, tied up in brocade bags, apparently tilted up against each other, tied together with a wreath of real, small single flowers. Each menu had a real flower thrust through two holes pierced in one corner.

Frosting has come to be quite a feature in house decorations, for this ground glass powder, or diamond dust may be used. There is also a new gold metal powder dust which is very coarse grained, and intended to look rough and to catch the light. It is applied with size, and the rougher the foundation the better. It combines with diamond frosting, with most excellent effect.

A new introduction is glass which shows the grain of wood as you look at it, and the shapes in which this is made render it particularly well adapted to table decoration.

A sack rug for travelling is made bag shape, just sufficiently large to cover the feet and reach to the waist, and wide enough to admit both legs. These bags are made of cloth generally embroidered, and are lined throughout with fur.

A beautiful arrangement for the dinner table is made with a long, narrow cloth of silver brocade in the center. At the edge of this are small sprays of maiden hair, tinted ivy, and white chrysanthemums, laid short distances apart. At each corner large bunches, tied with green ribbon, the color of the fern are placed with the stalks turned outward. No other flowers are to be used.

To cover all space between the mantel and the ceiling with tapestry has been considered quite *chic*, but it was formerly stretched tight across the surface. Now it is hung full suspended from supports just below the ceiling, not on a rod, unless a slighter one than that used for portières. A dozen and a half brass headed nails hold the cords that fasten the tapestry. The bottom falls in graceful folds just upon the mantel piece.

When two drawing rooms are divided by folding doors, usually kept closed, it is much the fashion now to insert small lattice windows made to open, Painted glass and imitation old glass, set in gilt or zinc framework are both seen.

A travelers' boudoir is a Parisian fancy. It is a frame of bamboo that may be packed very compactly and transported readily. When opened in a room at a hotel it spreads out like a tent, and looks rich and elegant.

A novel and costly carpet is made entirely of Eastern rugs, three of equal length forming the center, while the border is composed of rugs of slightly different designs, with a deeper combination of color.

A pretty decoration for a smoking room is made as follows: Cut a piece of black velvet the shape of a shield; face and line with wiggling. Fasten to the wall and place hooks at intervals, these arrange horizontally as taste dictates. A soft, bright colored, silk smoking cap, placed artistically with such a decoration adds much to the general effect.

OX GALL in dissolved soap and water is an excellent detergent for cleaning and brightening carpets.

AN efficient method of cleaning marble is to coat it with a compound of soap lees intermixed with quicklime and brought to the consistency of milk. After twenty-four hours, the whole is washed off with soap and water, and the marble, when dry, is rubbed with fine putty powder and olive oil.

IT is anything but good decorative construction to let brass handles in doors stand alone. For pleasing effectiveness a finger plate of some material with raised fanciful design should be supplied, and this in mat so as to contrast with its burnished surface. The appearance of the door will also be thus improved. A brass handle affords a better grip if slightly ribbed.